

I.

The well-known name of Champlain is connected in the minds of very few with the perusal of his own writings. Yet his works, published in quarto form in Quebec in 1870, are interesting memorials of the life and habits of the Indians and of his own valour as an explorer. In 1697, the Recollet priest, Louis Hennepin, published at Utrecht the record of his journeys. Among the rare books of this period is the amusing account of travels published by Baron Lahontan, at Amsterdam in 1705, and The Hague in 1715. Who can fail to feel the highest admiration for the six-volume edition of Father Charlevoix, published in Paris in 1744. The "Jesuit Relations," issued by the Canadian Government, contains a vast amount of information. The twelve large quarto volumes of the documentary history of the State of New York are a treasury of information about the early history of Canada, as well as of the state to which they belong. The events connected with the early voyage to Hudson Bay are discussed by M. de Bacqueville de la Potherie and M. J  r  mie, while the names of Lafiteau, Sagard, and others, speak of interesting memorials of this, the heroic period of Canadian history.

II.

Through not very numerous, the books connected with the early days of the English occupancy of Hudson Bay are of great value. "An Account of Hudson Bay, 1744," by Arthur Dobbs, is one of the rarest and most valuable of these. "A Voyage to Hudson's Bay," by Henry Ellis, published in 1748, is worthy of note; and an "Account of Six Years' Residence in Hudson's Bay, ending in 1747," by Joseph Robson, bristles with opposition to the great company of fur-traders. There is the work known as "The American Traveller, 1770;" while the Blue-book, containing the investigations by the British House of Commons, gives an account of the fur trade and the unsuccessful efforts of its rivals to overturn the great monopoly.

III.

A French period comes next: it is full of the adventurous exploits of the discoverer of Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries. The fact that Verandrye's discoveries, extending from 1731 to 1745, preceded by so short a time the loss of Canada to France, no doubt explains why so little is known of that era, now springing into greater prominence as the historian strives to trace the pathway of early adventure in the Canadian Northwest. We are indebted to the researches, in the documents of the archives of the Department of Marine and the Colonies at Paris, made by their former custodian, M. Pierre Margry, for almost all we know of it.

IV.

The Scoto-French movement from Montreal, resulting in the Northwest Company, has a considerable literature from its beginning, about the time of the Treaty of Paris, 1763, to the union of the rival fur companies in 1821. Among the most noticeable books of travel relating to this period is the now rare book of Jonathan Carver, published in 1778, of a long